Low Performance of Family Welfare Programme

2100. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the low performance districts in Family Welfare Programme have large minority population ; and

(b) if so, what programmes are designed to increase family planning acceptance in these districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) 90 districts in the country have been identified as low performing districts under tha Family Welfare Programme and this identification has been done on the basis of the incidence of high birth rate of 39 and above per 1000 population, as per the 1981 Census. Some of these districts have sezeable minority population.

(b) The Action plan recently formulated by the Department of Family Welfare in close consultation with the States/UTs envsages the following steps for improving the programme performance in these districts :—

(i) M'cro-level Plann'ng w 11 have to be done by the States to identify the needs on a real'stic bass for reduction in borth rate in these districts. Resources will be allocated for strengthening of infrastructure and procesion of other essent'ali inputs after taking into account the inputs already provided .in these distrcts through Area-Development Projects and other special projects, if any.

(ii) All posts at grass-root level of family welfare workers and supervisory officers would be filled up and motivated officers with good record would be posted in these districts.

(iii) Priority for construction of sub-centres and buildings for other health institutions would be given to these districts under the Area Development Projects.

(iv) Intensive training for medical and para-medical personnel would be organised.

(v) Since some of the low performance districts have seizeable minority populations. minority community leaders at local levels would be involved in launching imagination IEC programmes designed to increase family planning acceptance by all sections of the society through methods best suited to individual needs.

(vi) In order to improve the inter-personal communication efforts at the grass-root level a scheme of link volunteers would be tried out in some of the districts on a pilot basis. The Department of Women and Child Development would be requested to cover all the 90 districts with ICDS progaramme and suitable linkages developed at the service delivery level with ICDS functionaries to delver health, nutntion and family welfare services as a package.

(vii) The District Collectors would be fully involved in coordination/ supervision of the Family Welfare Programme related activities in these districts.

States/UTs have been requested to implement the various components of the Action Plan including the actions contemplated above.